

Law

Mission

We are a team of legal professionals committed to providing excellent legal services to the City of Atlanta. This work will be accomplished through

- an environment that is supportive and empowering;
- a team that is proactive and integrated into the day-to-day activities of the City;
- a staff that consistently provides top quality customer service and exhibits the highest degree of professionalism and ethical behavior; and
- a department with an exemplary reputation that is supported by all of the staff



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Summary of Operations

The City Attorney is the chief legal advisor for the City of Atlanta and is the director of the Department of Law. As chief legal advisor for the City of Atlanta, the City Attorney is responsible for providing legal counsel to the Mayor and to the Atlanta City Council. The Department of Law is vested with exclusive authority and jurisdiction in all matters of law relating to the executive branch of city government and every department, bureau, office, institution, commission, committee, board and other agency thereof. The Department of Law represents the City of Atlanta in a wide range of transactions; litigates all matters on behalf of the City of Atlanta; provides for the defense of city officers and employees in certain situations involving civil litigation arising out of the performance of official duties of the officer or employee; provides written legal opinions on questions of law connected with the interest of the City of Atlanta to the Mayor, any department head, and president or member of the Atlanta City Council; attends all meetings of the Atlanta City Council and meetings of the committees of the council as requested; supervises, administers and performs all claims work under O.C.G.A. § 34-9-1, et seq., and performs any other services as are consistent with the usual and customary duties of municipal corporation counsel. The Department of Law does not provide legal advice to members of the public. The Department of Law is limited to providing legal advice, counsel, and representation to the Mayor, City Council members, City officials and department is all civil matters regarding the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

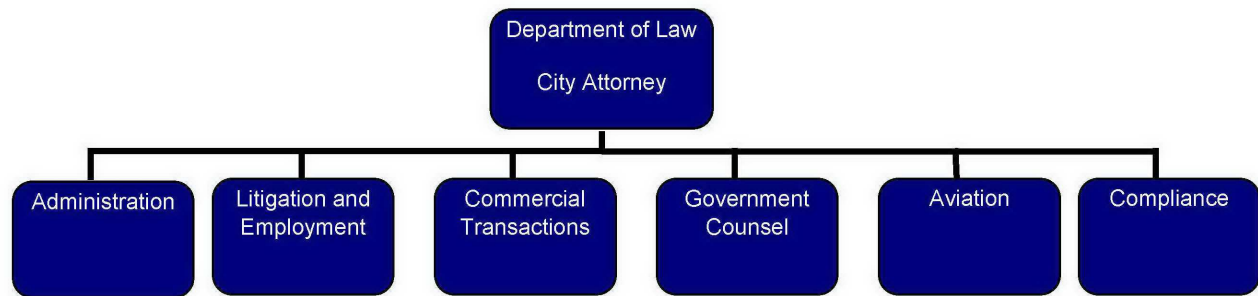
The Department is comprised of six major units:

- **The Litigation/Labor and Employment Practice Group** handles lawsuits in which the City, any of its employees, elected officials or its agents are named as defendants. This includes all tort litigation and constitutional claims, whether

filed in federal or state court. In addition to handling lawsuits, Litigation and Employment provides substantive legal advice on employment matters, workers compensation, and to the public safety entities which include Police, Fire, Corrections and Courts. Litigation and Employment also supervises the Claims Department which handles claims filed against the City as required by state law and pursues legal recovery of revenue on behalf of the City.

- **The Commercial Transactions Practice Group** is responsible for providing legal advice, counsel and representation to the City with respect to public finance, land use, real estate, information technology, procurement, intellectual property, and telecommunications matters. The Commercial Transactions Group also handles commercial litigation.
- **The Government Counsel, Economic Development and Infrastructure Practice Group** provides legal counsel to the Office of the Mayor, Departments of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs; Bureau of Housing; Public Works; Watershed Management, boards and commissions in the areas of economic development, public infrastructure and general municipal legal matters. In addition, this group advises City Council and the Council Clerk on procedure and legislative matters and other legal issues.
- **The Aviation Practice Group** acts as Counsel to the City of Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The Members of the practice group represent the City in a wide variety of transactions concerning the Airport, including transactions with airlines, vendors and contractors doing business with the Airport. This Group provides legal support for the Airport's construction program and handles litigation matters for the Airport.
- **The Compliance Unit** is responsible for proactively evaluating, reviewing and enhancing compliance standards and processes within the City of Atlanta, with a centralized focus on preventing and reducing the potential for municipal liability with regard to the City of Atlanta's compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Compliance Unit is also responsible for conducting thorough and impartial investigations into the affairs of any city department, board, bureau, commission, institution, authority, retirement system, or any other instrumentality or agency of the city. These investigations may also include any city official, employee or any person or organization to the extent that the person or organization shall have had any dealings with the City of Atlanta or any department, board, bureau, commission, institution, authority, retirement system, or other instrumentality or agency of the city.
- **The Administrative Unit** is responsible for assisting the City Attorney in managing the day-to-day administrative functions of the Law Department. This includes management and oversight of the department's Financial and Budget processes, Human Resources, Technology and Office operations.

Organizational Chart



ATL Stats Performance Metrics for Law

Performance Measure	2008 Actual	2009 Target	2010 Target
Pending Law Suits	389	N/A	N/A
Pending Claims	282	N/A	N/A
Resolved Litigation settlements approved by City Council or judgments	\$4,534,960	N/A	N/A
Total Amount of Claim settlements	\$1,528,745	N/A	N/A
Number of Claims Settled	411	N/A	N/A
Number of Claims Denied with no further action by Claimant	631	N/A	N/A
Denied Claims Resulting in lawsuit	64	N/A	N/A
Non-Bankruptcy Recoveries	\$473,543	N/A	N/A
Bankruptcy Recoveries	\$1,161,126	N/A	N/A
Bond Transactions Handled v/s Closed	18 / 7	N/A	N/A
Dollar Amount of Bond Transactions Handled v/s Closed (\$ millions)	\$2,715/\$418	N/A	N/A
Number of other transactions closed	979	N/A	N/A
Dollar Amount of other transactions closed (\$ millions)	\$2,035	N/A	N/A
Number of Calls to Integrity Line	129	N/A	N/A
Number of Investigations Handled	73	N/A	N/A

FY09 Accomplishments:

- ❖ Successful resolution of the airport gun case
- ❖ Settlement of a significant number of water damage cases
- ❖ Supported attempts to protect water assets and revenues from legislative changes
- ❖ Additional reductions in Outside Counsel expenditures
- ❖ Support of successful Beltline financing
- ❖ Successful adjudication of lengthy water rate differential case
- ❖ Jury defense verdict in race discrimination case for Fire Department
- ❖ Supreme Court ruling in the hotels.com case
- ❖ Legal support of cost cutting measures and personnel reductions with minimal legal challenges

FY10 Proposed Program Highlights

- ❖ No changes proposed for Law department structure, responsibilities, or organization



FY10 Budget Highlights Department of Law

Section 1

Department Summary		FY08 Actual		FY09 Budget		FY10 Budget	Variance (FY09 to FY10)
Personnel	\$	5,253,004	\$	4,556,106	\$	3,916,717	\$ (639,389)
Operating	\$	1,801,019	\$	1,647,500	\$	1,053,500	\$ (594,000)
Total Budget	\$	7,054,024	\$	6,203,606	\$	4,970,217	\$ (1,233,389)

Section 1.a

Personnel Cost Highlights		FY08 Actual		FY09 Budget		FY10 Budget	Variance (FY09 to FY10)
Salary - Full Time	\$	3,996,689	\$	3,485,283	\$	3,088,255	\$ (397,028)
Salary - Part-Time & Temporary	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Overtime	\$	2,139	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Health Benefits	\$	442,784	\$	365,528	\$	338,001	\$ (27,527)
Pension	\$	811,392	\$	705,295	\$	490,461	\$ (214,834)
Other Personnel	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Total Personnel	\$	5,253,004	\$	4,556,106	\$	3,916,717	\$ (639,389)

Section 1.b

Operating Cost Highlights		FY08 Actual		FY09 Budget		FY10 Budget	Variance (FY09 to FY10)
Consulting & Contracted Serv.	\$	1,482,076	\$	1,162,500	\$	937,500	\$ (225,000)
Repair & Maintenance	\$	42,114	\$	25,000	\$	2,500	\$ (22,500)
Communications	\$	40,443	\$	55,000	\$	34,500	\$ (20,500)
Professional Development	\$	56,889	\$	65,000	\$	12,500	\$ (52,500)
Supplies	\$	99,557	\$	253,000	\$	24,500	\$ (228,500)
Utilities, Energy	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Small Equipment (< \$5,000)	\$	26,320	\$	20,000	\$	2,500	\$ (17,500)
Capital (≥ \$5,000)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Motor Equipment	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Debt Service	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
All Other Line Items	\$	53,620	\$	67,000	\$	39,500	\$ (27,500)
Total Operating	\$	1,801,019	\$	1,647,500	\$	1,053,500	\$ (594,000)

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FY10 Budget Highlights Department of Law

Section 2

Authorized Position Count	FY09	FY10	Change
Full-Time	50	43	-7
Sworn	0	0	0
Civilian	0	0	0
Total	50	43	-7

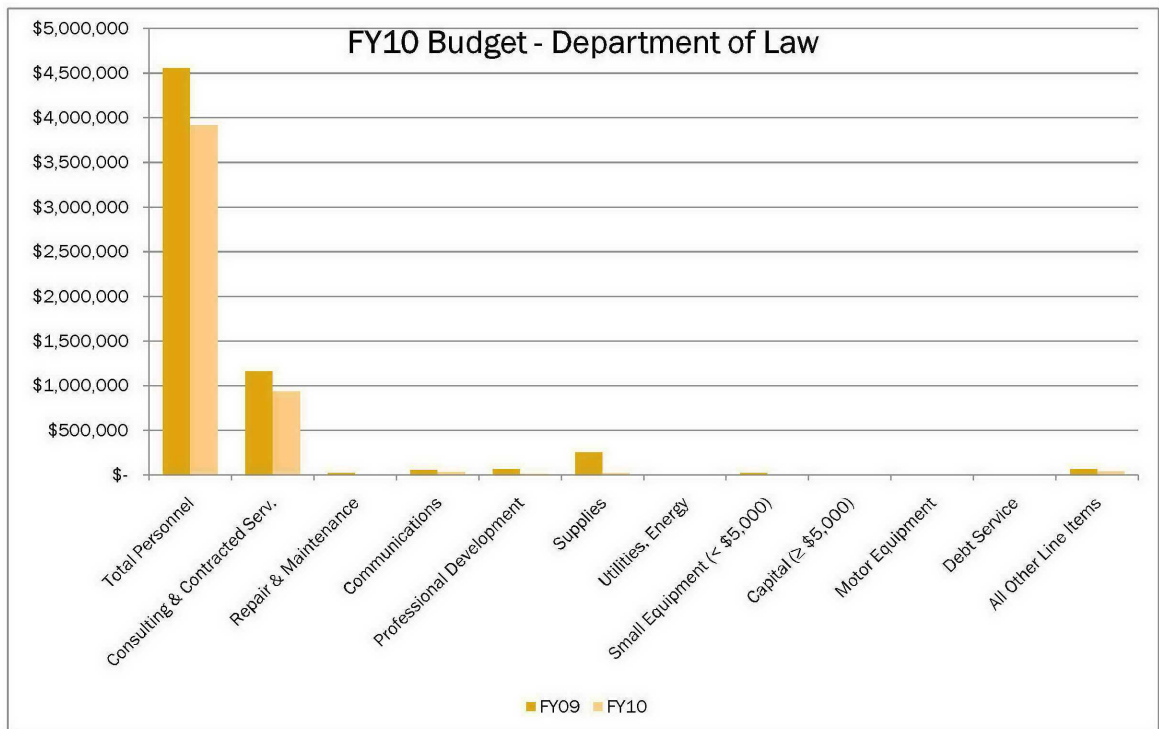
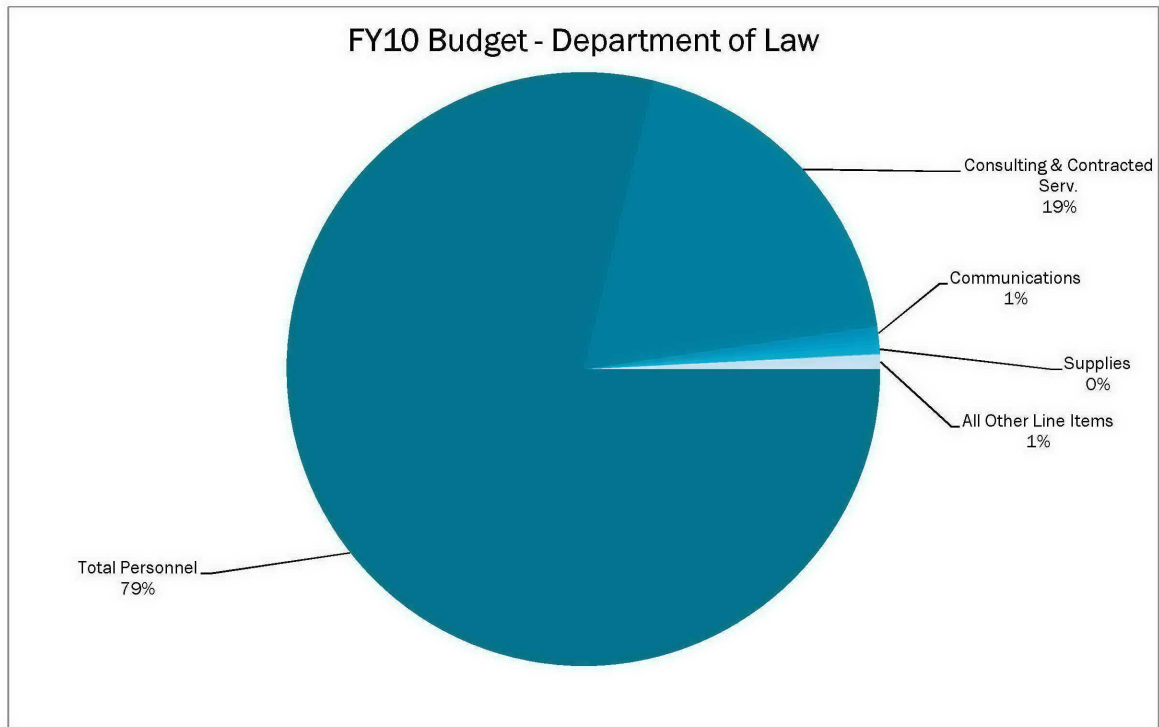
Section 2.a

Personnel Cost Highlights	Variance (FY09 to FY10)	Explanation
Salary - Full Time	\$ (397,028)	Decrease in cost due to annualizing FY09 position reductions
Salary Part-Time	\$ -	
Overtime	\$ -	
Health Benefits	\$ (27,527)	Decrease in cost due to FY09 position reductions
Pension	\$ (214,834)	Decrease in cost due to FY09 position reductions and reduction in pension rate
Other Personnel	\$ -	
Total Personnel	\$ (639,389)	

Section 2.b

Operating Cost Highlights	Variance (FY09 to FY10)	Explanation
Consulting & Contracted Serv.	\$ (225,000)	Close monitoring and management of Outside Counsel processes
Repair & Maintenance	\$ (22,500)	Update and changes in equipment resulted in minimal maintenance required
Communications	\$ (20,500)	Minimal outsourcing of printing and binding; reduction in blackberry expenses
Professional Development	\$ (52,500)	Minimized travel & identified pro bono training opportunities for attorneys to meet CLE requirements
Supplies	\$ (228,500)	Westlaw (media) now funded in Consulting/Professional Services account
Utilities, Energy	\$ -	
Small Equipment (< \$5,000)	\$ (17,500)	One-time purchases of various equipment to support claims and compliance investigations
Capital (≥ \$5,000)	\$ -	
Motor Equipment	\$ -	
Debt Service	\$ -	
All Other Line Items	\$ (27,500)	Operating Leases-Copiers, Postage Meter; Memberships-State Bar Dues; Conting. Fund
Total Operating	\$ (594,000)	

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